



500.52 Search, Transport, Detention

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POLICY

During transport or detention, arrestees/prisoners must be managed in a safe, secure, and expedient manner in order to prevent escape or receipt of contraband.

PROCEDURE

A. Transport

1. Transporting deputies are responsible for arrestee security until accepted by a receiving facility or other destination.
 - a. Thoroughly search each arrestee for weapons and contraband prior to placing in a vehicle; do not assume the arrestee was searched by someone else.
 - b. Apply restraints in accordance with Procedure 500.53: Handcuffs and Other Restraining Devices
 - c. Maintain security of the arrestee.
 - d. Maintain visual observation of the arrestee during transport if the design of the transport vehicle allows.
2. Examine vehicles used for transport at the beginning of each shift, then before and after each transport. Each deputy is responsible for maintaining the vehicle's safe operating condition and ensuring it is appropriately equipped.
3. Whenever possible, a deputy of the same gender searches an arrestee. When a deputy of the opposite gender performs the search, the back of the hand is used around private areas.
4. Strip searches
 - a. A law enforcement deputy does not strip search an arrestee unless, after conducting a proper pat-down, there is sound reasonable suspicion to believe the arrestee is concealing a weapon; which will be transported to the jail complex to ensure the privacy of arrestee. Supervisors must review the facts and circumstances of a weapons strip search and provide written authorization.
 - b. Properly document the strip search and include in the case package.
 - c. Under no circumstance are body cavity searches performed by Hendry County Sheriff's Office employees.
5. Prescribed medications on the arrestee's person remain with the arrestee's property. Deputies do not dispense prescription medication(s) to an arrestee or

- allow the arrestee to self-medicate prior to delivery to the correctional/holding facility. If the arrestee is in need of medical care, the deputy notifies Hendry County Emergency Medical Service (EMS).
6. Transporting deputies are not responsible for providing access to toilet facilities under ordinary circumstances. However, during lengthy transport operations, take precautions when allowing an arrestee to use toilet facilities.
 - a. Accompany arrestees into toilet facilities if at all possible.
 - b. In extreme emergencies when the transporting deputy cannot accompany the arrestee into the toilet facilities, ensure there are no escape routes or objects available that might pose a threat to the arrestee or to the transporting deputy, then remain in the immediate area of the stall and resume physical control of the arrestee as soon as practical.
 7. Placement of arrestees in transport vehicles depends on the number of arrestees transported and the number of transporting deputies used.
 - a. Transport arrestees in caged vehicles when possible in order to minimize the potential for escape and to ensure maximum safety and security for transporting deputies.
 - b. When an arrestee is transported in a non-caged vehicle and only one transporting deputy (driver) is available, secure arrestee by handcuffs to the rear, place in the front passenger seat and lock seat belt in place. Waist chains and other agency approved restraining devices are acceptable alternatives and are preferred for long transports.
 - c. When an arrestee is transported in a non-caged vehicle and two transporting deputies are available, place the arrestee in the front passenger seat with the second employee seated in the rear behind the arrestee. At no time is an arrestee transported in a non-caged vehicle's rear seat.
 8. Transport arrestees of the opposite gender according to these guidelines:
 - a. Transport male and female arrestees in the same vehicle if:
 1. they are arrested as participants in the same offense; or,
 2. they are related.
 - b. Transport male and female arrestees arrested in separate incidents in separate vehicles unless specifically approved by a supervisor.
 - c. Provide the Telecommunications Center the following information when arrestees are transported by a deputy of the opposite gender:
 1. Point of departure
 2. Destination
 3. Starting mileage
 4. Ending mileage
 9. Do not transport adult and juvenile arrestees in the same compartment of the same vehicle unless the juvenile and the adult were involved in the same incident.
 10. When lengthy transport operations require a stop for meals, the transporting deputies randomly select eating establishments with drive-thru and do not allow the arrestees to participate in the selection process.
 11. During transport, only the arresting deputy or law enforcement personnel are to question or initiate conversation with an arrestee about the arrestee's case.
 12. If the arrestee requires further restraints during transport, the transporting deputy:

- a. Notifies the Telecommunications Center via radio of the reason for stopping and the location;
 - b. Waits for a back-up unit before opening the vehicle door and further restraining the prisoner, unless there are exigent circumstances;
 - c. Advises the Telecommunications Center when transport has resumed.
- B. Rendering Assistance
 - 1. While engaged in arrestee transport, transporting deputies do not stop to render law enforcement assistance except when:
 - a. A law enforcement officer's physical safety is in jeopardy and requests help, other back-up is unavailable, and the transporting deputy is in close proximity to the officer requesting assistance.
 - b. The transporting deputy comes upon an accident scene or other incident with serious injuries or death. The transporting deputy stops and renders assistance only when the risk to third parties is both clear and grave and the risk to the arrestee is minimal.
 - c. Two transport deputies are available; one employee stays with the arrestee while the other renders assistance. The safety and security of the arrestee is the first concern of the transport deputies.
- C. Receiving Facilities
 - 1. Upon arrival at a receiving facility, court, or other agency the transporting deputies are to follow the receiving facility's established procedures. Adhere to the following minimum procedures at any receiving facility:
 - a. Do not enter a secure holding area or receiving area with firearms, ammunition, knives, stun devices, electronic control weapons or impact weapons.
 - 1. If the receiving facility does not have the facilities for securing those items, lock weapons in the trunk of the vehicle.
 - b. Keep the arrestee in restraints until the receiving officer authorizes removal.
 - c. Present all necessary arrestee transfer paperwork to the receiving officer and ensure required signatures are completed.
 - d. Notify receiving facility personnel upon arrival of any arrestee that has potential medical or security hazards.
- D. Medical Transports
 - 1. Arrangements are made by the transporting employee or a supervisor for special equipment or a special vehicle to effect transport in a safe and secure manner when arrestees require special care and attention to accommodate physical or mental disabilities. When safe transportation cannot be accomplished in an agency vehicle, arrange for a special vehicle such as an ambulance or a transfer van
 - 2. Keep the arrestee in restraints unless the attending physician requests they be removed for medical purposes, but only if the transporting deputy determines it is safe to do so.
 - 3. Stay with the arrestee unless the physician requests otherwise. If such request is made, maintain a post immediately outside the restricted area.
 - 4. Injured or ill arrestees are the responsibility of transporting deputies until booked or otherwise accepted by the Hendry County Jail Complex. Transporting deputies are to:

- a. Immediately notify their supervisor of an arrestee who is injured or becomes ill while in their care.
 - b. Remain with the arrestee if the injury can be treated quickly. When conditions are favorable that the arrestee is not seriously ill, injured, or unconscious transport the arrestee to the Jail Complex.
 - c. Afford the arrestee necessary medical attention prior to taking to the Jail Complex if the arrestee is unconscious or appears to be seriously ill, injured or highly intoxicated as those cases are not accepted at the jail. If additional treatment is necessary, the Jail Complex assumes custody and control of the arrestee.
 - d. Maintain the security of the arrestee until officially relieved.
 - e. Ensure that the arrestee and public are not in close proximity.
- E. Special Situation Transports
 - 1. In order to safely and securely transport a sick or injured arrestee, the transporting deputy requests Hendry County Emergency Medical Services for response to evaluate and transport the arrestee. Supervisors may authorize the deputy to provide transport on a case-by-case basis.
 - a. Apply restraints in accordance with Procedure 500.53: Handcuffs and Other Restraining Devices
 - 2. Handicapped persons:
 - a. Transport the arrestee in the normal manner, whenever possible.
 - b. Apply restraints in accordance with Procedure 500.53: Handcuffs and Other Restraining Devices.
 - c. In the event it is not feasible to transport a handicapped arrestee in a patrol vehicle, request a special transport vehicle such as a Jail van with wheelchair lift.
 - 3. Handle all transports falling outside the stated guidelines by other emergency vehicles, with the transporting deputy's assistance.
- F. Out-of-State Transports
 - 1. Out out-of-state transports will be done by the Jail Complex.
- G. Transport Vehicles
 - 1. Vehicles used primarily to transport persons in custody have the following equipment removed: inside rear door window handles (in case of power windows have the electric connections disconnected) and door locks (manual or power). The rear area of the vehicle used to transport persons in custody is separated from the front by a barrier that allows constant visual contact between the deputy and the person in custody.
- H. Escape From Lawful Custody
 - 1. Transporting deputies are to be prepared to act quickly to apprehend an escaping arrestee. In the event of an attempted or actual escape, follow these guidelines:
 - 2. Secure any remaining arrestees and notify the Telecommunications Center of all pertinent information regarding the escape and escapee identifiers such as physical description, clothing description, mode and direction of travel, and current charges placed on the escapee.
 - a. If in another jurisdiction, the deputy immediately attempts to retake the escapee and contacts the nearest law enforcement agency with jurisdiction as soon as possible.

3. If the escapee is not immediately apprehended, the Telecommunications Center notifies the following: transporting deputy's immediate supervisor, the patrol supervisor, district commander, and other contiguous jurisdictions.
4. The employee's immediate supervisor gathers information on the escapee to include recent photographs, last known address, relatives' addresses, and potential threat to the public.
5. If the escapee is not apprehended immediately, the district patrol supervisor assumes control of the incident and search until relieved or the search proves futile, and ensures that a "BOLO" is issued by the Telecommunication Center. To capture the escapee, the patrol supervisor utilizes all available resources of the Sheriff's Office, as deemed appropriate, to include but not limited to the Canine Unit, Ag/Marine Unit, and Aviation Unit.
6. The transporting deputy makes the initial report of the incident. The transporting deputy's supervisor ensures that the report(s) are complete and forwarded to the appropriate investigative/support units.
7. The immediate supervisor ensures that all information pertinent to the escapee is provided to the Civil Process Unit. If the escape occurs in Hendry County, the appropriate Criminal Investigations Unit is notified and the on-call detective conducts any follow-up investigation.
8. The Civil Process Unit compiles all necessary biographical and documentary information about the escapee and enters the escapee into the FCIC/NCIC system using a temporary warrant format (48 hours duration).
9. The Civil Process Unit, upon receiving the arrest warrant from the court, removes the temporary entry and replaces it with the court ordered warrant entry.

DEFINITIONS

BODY CAVITY SEARCH – A search conducted, only with probable cause, of body orifices or cavities. This type of search is to be done pursuant to court order and only by authorized, licensed medical personnel under the direct order of the Jail Administrator or designee.

BOLO – A broadcast over all primary talk groups or FCIC advising field personnel to be on the look out for described persons, objects, or events.

FCIC/NCIC – Florida Crime Information Center and National Crime Information Center, respectively.

STRIP SEARCH – Remove or arrange some or all of a person's clothing so as to permit a visual or manual inspection of the genitals, buttocks, anus, breasts in the case of a female, or undergarments of such person.

REFERENCES

State/Federal Regulations:

Florida Statute 901.211

Florida Statute 985.101

CFA:

CFA Standards 2.01M, 21.01M, 21.03M, 21.04M, 21.05, 21.06M, 21.07M, and 21.08M

Forms:

500.52-01 Receipt For Prisoner's Personal Property

Other Policy/ Procedure References:

800.02 Exposure Control Plan

500.51 Arrest Procedures

500.53 Handcuffs and Other Restraining Devices